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Since we cannot reproduce or discuss a tithe of the vital problems presented, we may select a few of the most important conclusions, typical of all. "This competitive wage we Socialists seek to replace by an allowance for maintenance deliberately settled according to the needs of the occupation and the means at the nation's command. We already see official salaries regulated, not according to the state of the labor market, but by consideration of the cost of living. This principle we seek to extend to the whole industrial world." And as to ground rents: "A socialist state or municipality will charge the full economic rent for the use of its land and dwellings, and apply that rent to the common purposes of the community."

The discussion of poor-law reform and pensions for the aged ought to be thoroughly discussed in the United States. It will soon be for us, as it is in England, a theme of practical politics.

C. R. HENDERSON.

The Federal Census: Critical Essays by Members of the American Economic Association. Collected and edited by a Special Committee. (Publications of the American Economic Association, New Series, No. 2, March, 1899.) New York: The Macmillan Co. Pp. 4+516, 8vo. \$2.

It is a well-known fact that the United States government spends more money for the collection and compiling of census statistics than any other nation. The cost of the previous censuses has been in round numbers, according to official figures, as follows: 1790, \$44,000; 1800, \$67,000; 1810, \$178,500; 1820, \$208,500; 1830, \$378,500; 1840, \$833,500; 1850, \$1,329,000; 1860, \$2,000,000; 1870, \$3,500,000; 1880, \$6,000,000; 1890, \$11,000,000.

That the accuracy of the 1890 census and of previous censuses is not all that could be desired, those who have followed the articles by Mr. Bliss in this and the previous volume of the Journal will be convinced.

In view of the enormous and increasing cost and the undoubted shortcomings of our census work, all will agree that the American Economic Association has done excellent service in arranging for and publishing this volume of papers by authorities on the department of statistics of which they treat.

The following are the divisions: "Report of the Committee on the Scope and Method of the Twelfth Census": "Area, Population," etc., by W. F. Wilcox; "Colored Population of African Descent," by W. Z. Ripley; "Census of the North American Indians," by Franz Boas; "Age, Sex, Dwellings and Families, and Urban Population," by G. K. Holmes; "Educational Statistics," by D. R. Dewey; "Statistics of Occupations," by Richmond Mayo-Smith; "Mortality Statistics," by C. L. Wilbur and Irving Fisher; "Statistics of Crime," by R. P. Faulkner; "Pauperism and Benevolence," by S. M. Lindsay; "Agriculture," by N. I. Stone; "Farm and Home Proprietorship," by David Kinley; "Transportation," by E. R. Johnston and W. E. Weyl; "Manufactures," by S. N. D. North, W. M. Stewart, and W. C. Ford; "Wages," by C. J. Bullock; "Valuation and Taxation," by C. C. Plehn; "Municipal Finance," by H. B. Gardner; "Scope and Method of the Twelfth Census," by W. C. Hunt; "Extracts from Letters;" appendix: "Provisions of the Census Laws of 1889 and 1899;" index.

The papers are designed to be in the main critical studies of the leading divisions of the eleventh census. But they are also very valuable for comparative estimates and information on all the previous censuses and contain considerable constructive work.

It is unfortunate that the publication could not have appeared a couple of years sooner, so that it could have been used in its entirety, as a testimony to the need of reform in our census methods before the taking of the twelfth census.

The law for the census of 1900, given in the appendix, does show that Congress is not utterly lost to reason; for it asks for returns on somewhat fewer and simpler heads, and provides for more expert help than did the census of 1890. But the short time allowed for organizing the force, the refusal to place it under civil-service rules, and the failure to provide for a permanent census bureau show that the publication under review may yet do royal service as a tract to be circulated among members of Congress.

C. H. HASTINGS.